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Application No.: 10/644,982

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Amended) A system for determining and/or positioning a digital sensor of a dental X-ray apparatus, comprising:

- an input and output device for interactive control of the system,
- a first storage area, in which a digital image of an area to be examined, is saved,
- a second storage area, in which a plurality of template images corresponding to different sensors of the dental X-ray apparatus are stored, and
- a processing unit, which places a selected template image of a sensor simulatively on the area to be examined of the digital image such that when a real X-ray image is created, the area to be examined is depicted completely and precisely,
- wherein the processing unit has means for indicating the sensor and the position of the sensor in the digital image.

2. (Previously Amended) A system as defined in claim 1, further comprising a user interface enabling interactive selection of the template images and/or the area to be examined.

3. (Previously Amended) A system as defined in claim 1, wherein a user interactively specifies the area to be examined in the digital image, and the processing unit specifies that template image which covers the area to be examined as completely as possible.

4. (Previously Amended) A system as defined in claim 1, wherein the processing unit determines the position of the template images in one or more dimensions.

5. (Previously Amended) A system as defined in claim 1, further comprising a computer interface to the X-ray apparatus, via which presettings determined by simulation are transferred, while the X-ray apparatus permits the creation of a digital image only when said presettings apply.

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6. (Previously Amended) A system as defined in claim 1, further comprising a computer interface, via which an existing digital image of a patient to be X-rayed is transferred to the first storage area.

7. (Previously Amended) A system as defined in claim 1, wherein the apparatus comprises a dental X-ray-unit.

8. (Previously Amended) A system as defined in claim 1, wherein the system comprises a PC controlled by software.

9. (Currently Amended) A data medium containing a data structure including a A template for specifying a digital X-ray sensor, said template comprising a shape and size of an X-ray image in the form of a digital X-ray sensor, said size and shape of said template being scaled up by a factor corresponding to the X-ray image for displaying said X-ray image.

10. (Currently Amended) A data medium ~~A template~~ as defined in claim 9, further comprising a property making it possible to pass the template over an X-ray image.

11. (Currently Amended) A data medium ~~A template~~ as defined in claim 10, further comprising a digitally stored size and orientation which is adapted, when called on, in accordance with actual dimensions of a digital X-ray image.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method of specifying and/or positioning a digital sensor of a dental X-ray apparatus using templates corresponding in size and shape to a sensor image, comprising:

- a first step, in which ~~a~~ an X-ray image is selected, this being an X-ray image of a patient to be examined,
- a second step, during which an area to be imaged is specified, and

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- a third step, during which there is selected, from a plurality of templates each of which is assigned to sensors of the ~~digital~~ dental X-ray apparatus, that template which covers the area specified in the second step most precisely.

14. (Previously Amended) A method as defined in claim 13, wherein the third step is carried out automatically or interactively.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for specifying and/or positioning a digital sensor of a dental X-ray apparatus, using templates corresponding in size and shape to an image of the sensor, comprising:

- a first step, in which ~~a~~ an X-ray image is selected, this being an X-ray image of a patient to be examined,
- a second step, during which there is selected, from a plurality of templates each assigned to a sensor of the ~~digital~~ dental X-ray apparatus, that template which should be used to cover an area to be X-rayed,
- and a third step, during which the selected template is moved across the X-ray image for purposes of control and an imaging area appertaining to the selected template is thus revealed, the second and third steps being iteratively continued until a suitable combination of sensor and imaging area is displayed.

16. (Previously Amended) A method as defined in claim 13, wherein the X-ray image and the templates are managed in digital form.

17. (Previously Added) A method as defined in claim 15, wherein the X-ray image and the templates are managed in digital form.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for creating a number of partial images using a plurality of sensors, comprising a first step in which several areas to be X-rayed are selected from an image, and a second step in which there is effected automatic selection and display of at least one sensor suitable for creating a respective image.

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19. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein the image is a digital panoramic radiogram, which is displayed on a digital display unit and refers individually to the a patient.

20. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein a suitable sequence for making images is automatically proposed, account being taken of particular conditions of a respective X-raying situation, said account being at least one of the order of images to be created, operation of positioning the an X-ray unit, and selection of a sensor type.

21. (Currently Amended) A data medium, containing a data structure that is capable of running on a computer to carry a method as defined in claim 13.

22. (Currently Added) A data medium, containing a data structure that is capable of running on a computer to carry a method as defined in claim 15.

23. (Currently Added) A data medium, containing a data structure that is capable of running on a computer to carry a method as defined in claim 18.

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